

Worship online at www.ststephenslutheran.org

Recorded for you to view anytime.

Please participate by having your worship bulletin and Celebrate ready

Zoom Bible Studies with Pastor Jim on Thursdays 11am & 7pm.

Check your email on Wednesday for the link to the Zoom meeting.

Our Mission Statement

St. Stephen's is a welcoming, healing community who worship
God in Christ, nurture people growing in faith,
serve others with acceptance and love,
invite people to share the joy of the spirit.

Reconciling in Christ

"We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace.
We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of
race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity,
gender expression, or relationship status.

We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or
mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances,
or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ."

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church E.L.C.A.

2500 Soquel Avenue Santa Cruz, CA 95062

831/476-4700 FAX 831/476-3918

email: office@ststephenslutheran.org

Web Address: www.ststephenslutheran.org

Office Hours: Mon.—Thurs. 8:30 am—2:30 pm

Ministers: The People of St. Stephen's

Pastor: Rev. James P. Lapp

Church Administrator: Leslie Lapp

Church Musician: Gary Roberts

Sunday School: Leslie Lapp

Pre-School Director: Kathy Berens

Custodian: John Hopping

Videographers: Kent Madsen & Barb Rice

Music used by permission Onelicense #A-706539

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 16, 2020

WELCOME AND A NOTE TO VISITORS

Welcome Visitor! We pray the service will be a blessing for you and that you will join us again soon. Thank you for worshiping with us — your presence is a joy to this faith community. Please fill out the “Worship Slip” and place it in the offering plate. Nursery care is available, the ushers can direct you.

(*) Asterisk means, “Please Stand”

The Gathering

*Prayer of Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
Whose steadfast love is everlasting,
Whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

C: Amen

P: Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess the ways we have missed God's mark.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Reconciling God,

**C: We confess that we do not trust your abundance,
And we deny your presence in our lives.
We place our hope in ourselves
And rely on our own efforts.
We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.
We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.
We fear difference and do not welcome others
As you have welcomed us.
We sin in thought, word, and deed.
By your grace, forgive us;
Through your love, renew us;
And in your Spirit, lead us;
So that we may live and serve you in newness of life.
Amen.**



*The Altar Flowers are given
by Barbara Rice
in Celebration of Renee's Birthday*

Live Worship option

If any of you would like to participate, we are open to a **few people** Reading Scripture and offering the Prayers of Intercession from the Celebrate page. Or if you would just like to come to worship – Saturdays 11:00 am. Masked & Socially distanced of course.

Call Leslie at 476-4700 to schedule your spot ☺.

PLTS Founders' Day

Wednesday, Sep. 16 at 9:00 am

Climate Justice, Racial Justice, and Divestment: The Call of the Church

Our moment in time is pivotal. Movements around the globe are aligning for powerful action toward climate, justice, holding racial justice at the heart of the struggle to protect Earth's fragile climate. Bill McKibben is recognized around the globe as a foremost leader in that struggle. His address will draw the links between racial, climate well-being, divestment/reinvestment, and the call of the church.

<https://www.plts.edu/events/4864/>

*Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer Concerns

Short Term: Healthcare workers & teachers, Sherilyn Jager & family, Family of Delores Price, Family of Al Mitchell, Sam Loya, Jennifer & family, Family of Cheryl Denny, Jean Patterson, Nicholas Gross & family, Sheila & Terri, Frank Giammona, Derek, Heather, Kevin, Family of Suzanne Duval, Vanessa, Rose, Shelly Barker & family, George Webber & Family, Cox Family, Becky & Aaron Johnson, Marlene Simmen & family, Lorraine Chavez, Kimberly & Danny, Lora Schraft Poulson, Michael, Kayla, Don, Lina, Katarina, Taiyo, Mateo, Stephanie Jager, Cabel, Kyle, Noah, Esdras, Jackson, Joe, Pat, Riley, Shelby, Frank, Kaitlyn, Daniel, Ryder, Jenny, Abby, Immigrant families, The Homeless, Our Nation's leaders, Mt. Cross, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, Pastor Jim and Our Church Family. **Long Term:** The Sanders Family, Linda Johnson, Bailey Ingalls, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, John B., Michelle, Josh, CJ, Susan Anderson, Rick, Bobbie Erickson, Edna Lindquist, Richard C., Eric VonSchell, Lauri Hollist, Ken Pahel, Pat M., Gary, Brouse Family, Janet Baker, Sandy Godvine, Janelle Yung, Barry & Barbara, Chris & Lorie Juhl, Karin, Will, Chris, Pat Hubbard, Cathy, Pearl Runquist, Volpi & Robe Family, men and women of Armed Forces, and the Youth of today.

August Benevolence Offering

**California Lutheran University
&
Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary**

P: Beloved of God,
By the overwhelming abundance of divine mercy
We have peace with God through † Christ Jesus,
Through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.
Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope.
For hope does not disappoint
Because God's love has been poured into our hearts
Through the Holy Spirit. C: **Amen.**

*Opening Hymn

"All Are Welcome" Red #641

**Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
A place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:**

REFRAIN

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place

**Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:**

REFRAIN

**Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
A banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us:**

REFRAIN

**Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
To heal and strengthen serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
Let us bring an end to fear and danger:**

REFRAIN

Let us build a house where all are named,
 their songs and visions heard
 And loved and treasured, taught and claimed
 as words within the Word.
 Built of tears and cries and laughter,
 prayers of faith and songs of grace,
 Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: **REFRAIN**

God Give Us Life By Ray Makeever

*Call to Worship

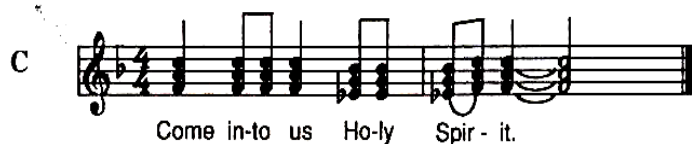
L In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth, breathing life into all creatures.



L In the beginning God created the people of the earth, naming humanity the embodiment of the divine presence.



L In the beginning God guided the darkness over the earth, leading it into light, forming a communion from the chaos.



L As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be...

C God give us life!

*Benediction Solo voice first time; congregation second time.



*Closing Hymn

"Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" Red #886

Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing
 my great Redeemer's praise,
 The glories of my God and king,
 the triumphs of his grace!

My gracious Master and my God,
 assist me to proclaim,
 To spread through all the earth
 abroad the honors of your name.

The name of Jesus charms our fears
 and bids our sorrows cease,
 Sings music in the sinner's ears,
 brings life and health and peace.

He speaks, and list'ning to his voice,
 new life the dead receive;
 The mournful, broken hearts rejoice,
 the humble poor believe.

Look unto him, your Savior own,
 O fallen human race!
 Look and be saved through faith alone,
 Be justified by grace!

To God all glory, praise, and love
 Be now and ever giv'n
 By saints below and saints above,
 The church in earth and heav'n.

Communion Hymn

"Creating God, Your Fingers Trace" #684

**Creating God, your fingers trace
the bold designs of farthest space;
let sun and moon and stars and light
and what lies hidden praise your might.**

**Sustaining God, your hands uphold
earth's mysteries known or yet untold;
let water's fragile blend with air,
enabling life, proclaim your care.**

**Redeeming God, your arms embrace
all now despised for creed or race;
let peace, descending like a dove,
make known on earth your healing love.**

**Indwelling God, your gospel claims
one family with a billion names;
let every life be touched by grace
until we praise you face to face.**

*Communion Blessing

P: May this Holy Communion of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in God's grace now and forever

C: Amen

*Post Communion Prayer

P: God of the welcome table,
In this meal we have feasted on your goodness
And have been united by your presence among us.
Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts
So that we may share your neighborly love with all,
Through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life.

C: Amen

*Leader sings first time, women only second time;
whole congregation third time*



In the name of God, the Cre - a - tor, In the name of Christ, the Re-deem-er,



In the name of the Guid-ing Spir - it, Al - le - lu - ia, A men.

Solo voice sings first line; congregation second.



L Come let us wor-ship God. Come let us wor-ship God.



C Come let us wor-ship God. Come let us wor-ship God

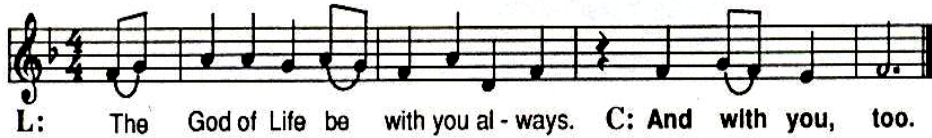


L Wel-come ev-'ry-one to the love of God.



C Wel-come ev-'ry-one to the love of God.

Verses: 2. Rest for the weary
3. Food for the hungry
4. Hope for the children



*Prayer of the Day

Celebrate pg. 1

P: Let us pray
C: Amen

First Reading

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Celebrate pg. 1

R: Word of God. Word of Life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Read Responsively

Psalm 67

Celebrate pg. 2

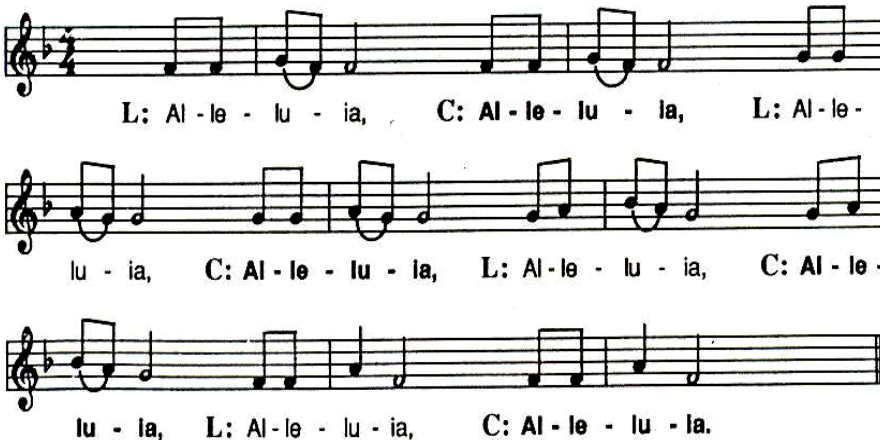
Second Reading

Romans 11:1-2, 29-32

Celebrate pg. 3

R: Word of God. Word of Life.
C: Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation



as we forgive those who sin against us;
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory, are yours now and forever.
Amen.

Lamb of God: vs. 1 and 2 only

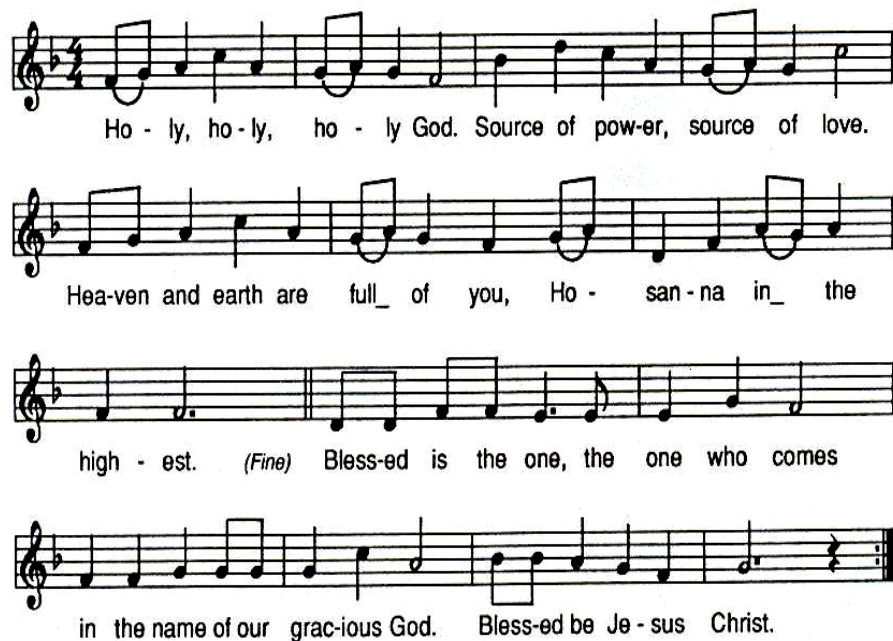


2. Lamb of God, who'd give your soul
To see a broken world made whole,
Have mercy upon us. mercy upon us... etc.

Holy Communion

As we continue to worship at a distance, please provide your own bread and fruit of the vine to commune with. Use the words "The Body of Christ given" and "The Blood of Christ shed" when you receive each of the elements.

Holy Holy



*Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it and gave it to his disciples saying: "Take and eat; this my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying; "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

*The Lord's Prayer

C: Our Father, in heaven
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread;
Forgive us our sins,

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 15th Chapter.
C: **Glory to you, O God.**

*The Gospel Matthew 15:10-28 Celebrate pg. 3

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon Pastor James Lapp

*Hymn of the Day

"Healer of Our Every Ill" Red #612

REFRAIN
Healer of our every ill
Light of each tomorrow
Give us peace beyond our fear
And hope beyond our sorrow

You who know our fears and sadness
Grace us with your peace and gladness
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts *REFRAIN*

In the pain and joy beholding
How your grace is still unfolding
Give us all your vision, God of love *REFRAIN*

Give us strength to love each other
Ev'ry sister, ev'ry brother
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide *REFRAIN*

You who know each thought and feeling
Teach us all your way of healing
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart *REFRAIN*

*Prayers of the Church Celebrate Pg. 4

*Passing of the Peace

P: May the peace of God be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

Offering—*Please continue to give by mail, website or church mailbox*

*Offertory Hymn *Solo voice sings first time through;
Congregation sings through twice as gifts are presented.*

Come bring them to the ta - ble. Bring the
gifts of bread and wine. The hopes and dreams of all the
1.
peo - ple, the of - fring of our lives.
2,3.
of - fring of our lives, the of - fring of our lives.

*Offering Prayer

P: God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours,
And your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.
Water and word, wine and bread:
These are signs of your abundant grace.
Nourish us through these gifts,
That we might proclaim your steadfast love
In our communities and in the world,
Through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.

C: **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

L The God of Life be with you al - ways.
C And with you, too.
L Lift up your hearts, Lift up your minds.
C We lift them joy - ful - ly un - to God.
L Let us thank our grac - ious God.
C It is right to give God thanks and praise.
L The God of Life be with you al - ways.
C And with you, too.